

NOTES ON TROPICAL AMERICAN LAURACEAE

II. COSTA RICA

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Ocotea skutchii C.K. Allen, Jour. Arnold Arboretum 26: 352.1945

Ocotea williamsii P.H. Allen, Rainforests of Golfo Dulce
410, pl. 27. 1956.

Distribution: Known only from Costa Rica.

Costa Rica: San José: Vicinity of El General, Skutch 3062
(fl., type, GH: isotype, NY); Puntarenas: forested hills near
Golfito de Golfo Dulce, Paul H. Allen 5983 (fl., fr. isotype (US)).

The distinguishing features by which Paul Allen recognized his new species were the extremely large, oblong or ellipsoid fruits and the axillary tufts of hair that occurred abundantly on the lower leaf surface. Only the cupule of Ocotea skutchii was available at the time of publication, but according to the description, it is identical with that of O. williamsii. The tufts of hair on the lower surface of the leaves do not appear on close examination to be the usual type of pubescence found in the glands of many species of Lauraceae. Possibly they represent an epidermal growth induced by insect attack near the primary and frequently the secondary nerves.

The flowers available from the type number proved to be abnormal in structure, a condition which could also be the result of insect infestation.

However, the general habit of growth of the branchlets, the twigs and the leaves with long-decurrent blades simulating a long petiole are the same in both types. The greenish yellow color of the specimens in the dried state presents a striking background for the bright yellow venation, another character in common. Both are trees over eighty feet in height.

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